

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, lines 7 to 11, replace the paragraph with the following amended paragraph.

The invention relates to listening devices such as hearing aids, and in particular to listening devices having a casing and an array of microphones ~~comprising~~including two or more microphones, a signal processing device, and a receiver for delivering an output to the user of the listening device. Such devices encompass hearing aids and headsets and various other assistive listening devices.

Page 1, line 15 to page 2, line 3, replace the paragraphs with the following amended paragraphs

In listening devices of this kind it is a problem that the microphones need to be closely matched in order for a possible directional computational algorithms to function optimally. In order that the microphone stay matched over a long period, an automatic matching process is introduced. Here the signals from the microphones are continually analysed to ensure that over time there is no big difference in the output level from the microphones. In such listening devices it is also a problem[[,]] that when the casing is accidentally touched or touched when applied to the ear, very loud sound output levels may be produced as the microphones are

very sensitive to noise propagated through the material of the casing walls.

If substantial differences in the input to the microphones should occur, this might corrupt the outcome of the automatic matching process.

Further, it has been discovered that such large differences are most likely to coincide with the occurrence of large and unpleasant noises which the user would prefer not to hear, like the noise which is produced when the casing is touched by the user. In hearing aids a large gain or amplification of the audio signal is introduced to compensate for the hearing loss of the user. This amplification amplifies all signals, wanted as well as non-wanted. The wanted signals usually originates some distance from the hearing aid and arrives travelling through the air. Noise from touching the hearing aid is very unpleasant since it results in a loud output signal from the hearing aid because of the frictional resistance, the banging from the acceleration of fingers ect. The noise increases as the origin of the noise moves closer to one of the microphones in a multi-microphone hearing aid.

Page 3, lines 21 and 22, replace the drawing description with the following amended drawing description.

Fig. 3 shows the time related differences in short term energy content in two microphone channels where the sound level in the environment is

high, and

Page 5, lines 22 to 29, replace the paragraph with the following amended paragraph.

If the environment is not quiet, the touching and possible closing or covering of the microphone channel results in an attenuation of the incoming signal. The ratio between the two channels in this case is as shown in fig. 3. This is useful in the event[7] where the user is to communicate with the hearing aid in an environment with very loud sound pressure. Here the microphones may be saturated and any additional sound, such as might be generated by touching the shell cannot be detected whereas the sudden absence of sound in one channel is easily detected as a sudden change of the value Ch1/Ch2 and can be acted upon.